

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed November 13, 2006. In the office action the Examiner:

- allowed claims 15-20;
- object to claim 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; and
- rejected claims 21-24 and 26-34 under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Kumar et al. (US 2002/0167001)

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 15-34.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 21-24 and 26-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kumar et al. The applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses.

Claims 21-25

Claim 21 recites a semiconductor fabrication method that includes four steps executed in a specific sequence:

- i. etching a gate trench;
- ii. forming a first gate region at the bottom of the gate trench;
- iii. implanting a buffer region beneath the first gate trench; and
- iv. implanting a second gate region beneath the buffer region.

In contrast, Kumar teaches a semiconductor fabrication method that includes four steps executed in a different order:

- i. implanting a second gate area 3 in an N-type epitaxial layer 2 (Fig. 19B and paragraph [0087]);
- ii. etching a trench 30 (Fig. 22A and paragraph [0156]);
- iii. implanting an N-type region 5 (Fig. 22B and paragraph [0158]); and
- iv. forming a P-type layer in the trench 30 as the first gate area 8 (Fig. 23A and paragraph [0160]).

Thus, claim 21-25 are not anticipated by Kumar.

Claims 26-29

Claim 26 recites a semiconductor fabrication method that implants a buffer region beneath a first gate region **after** the first gate region is formed. But as noted above, Kumar's method implants the N-type region 5 **before** the first gate area 8 is formed.

Therefore, claims 26-29 are not anticipated by Kumar for at least the same reasons mentioned above.

Claims 30-34

Claim 30 recites a semiconductor fabrication method that implants a second gate region beneath a buffer region **after** the buffer region is formed. But as noted above, Kumar's method forms the second gate area 3 **before** the N-type region 5 is formed.

Therefore, claims 30-34 are not anticipated by Kumar for at least the same reasons mentioned above.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-4000, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

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